

Discussion Questions

Galatians Chapter 1

Joshua Abbott

1. Across the Pauline Epistles, we find similar greetings in most of them. Why do you think Paul started his letters in this way?
2. Why was it important for Paul to clarify who he was, and was not, appointed by as an Apostle?
3. Why did Paul wish both grace and peace to his readers?
4. In verse 4 Paul gives the essence of the Gospel in a single verse. What other bible verses can you think of that share this simple message in one verse? (Hints: John 3:16, Romans 5:8)
5. After his opening greetings, Paul sometimes gets right to the point of why he is writing. Why was Paul so shocked about what he had heard about the Galatians?
6. In verses 8 and 9 Paul strongly warns his readers what will happen to those who preach a different Gospel. In what ways does this warning apply to us today?
7. What is more important: pleasing God or pleasing people? Follow up: can serving God produce results that please people? List some of the ways.
8. Paul goes to great lengths to qualify where the source of his inspiration comes from. Why did he reiterate this again?
9. What was Paul called to do? What is your calling?
10. Why was dramatic change in and conversion of the Apostle Paul, also called Saul, so foundational to early Christianity?

1. Why did Paul go to the church leaders when he returned to Jerusalem? Did he need to do that?
2. What was the result of Paul's meeting with the church leaders and why is that important to us?
3. What did Paul confront Peter about and why?
4. Have you ever stopped doing the right thing because of criticism from those around you? If so, how can you react differently next time?
5. In the first part of the chapter, Paul went to the church leaders privately but at the end of the chapter he confronted Peter publicly. Why do you think he treated these situations differently?
6. How should we respond if we see our fellow Christians acting inappropriately? Do we follow Paul's example of publicly confronting them or do we respond privately or handle it some other way?
7. In verse 15, Paul says, "For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law." And in verse 21 he says, "For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die." What does this mean as far as our behavior and actions?

Paul asks the Galatians, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses?”

Why do you think Paul is asking this question? Verse 2

How do you think someone can receive the Holy Spirit today? Is it by being good enough, or by something else?

Why do you think people sometimes feel like they need to follow a bunch of rules to be accepted by God? Have you ever felt like that? Verses 3-5

What does Paul say in this passage about what really makes us right with God?

Paul talks about Abraham and how he was considered right with God because of his faith, not because he followed rules. What do you think it means to have faith like Abraham? Verses 6-9

Can you think of a time when you had to trust God, even when you didn’t know what was going to happen?

Paul says that everyone who has faith in Christ is “The real children of Abraham.” What do you think it means to be part of Abraham’s family, even though he lived thousands of years ago? Verses 7, 29

How does being part of God’s family change how you see yourself and others?

Paul says that people who try to follow all the rules perfectly are under a curse. Why do you think that is? Verses 10-12. What’s the difference between trying to be perfect and just trusting in Jesus?

Paul says that Christ rescued us from this curse by dying on the cross. How does that make you feel, knowing Jesus took the punishment we deserved? Verses 13-14

What can you do to remind yourself of this truth when you feel like you’re not good enough?

Paul says that “we were placed under guard by the law” until Jesus came. What do you think that means? How was the law like a guardian? Verses 23-24

Now that Jesus has come, how should we live? Is it by following rules or by something else?

Paul tells us that we are all “children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” What does it mean to you to be called a child of God? Verse 26

How can remembering that you are a child of God change the way you act or feel at school, with friends, or with your family?

In verse 28, Paul says that in Christ, there is no longer “Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female.” What do you think this means? Verse 28

How can you help create unity among your friends, knowing that God sees everyone the same?

Paul says that when we belong to Christ, we share in the blessing given to Abraham. How does it feel to know that you are included in God’s promises? Verse 29

How can you live like someone who is part of God’s big promise and plan?

How does Paul illustrate the purpose of the law in verses 1-3? What does he mean by saying that we were “slaves” to the spiritual principles of the world?

In verse 4, Paul mentions that God sent his Son “when the right time came.” What significance does this timing have in the context of the gospel?

What does it mean to be adopted as sons and daughters of God? How does this idea impact our identity as Christians? vs 6-7

In verses 8-11, Paul expresses concern about returning to “weak and useless” principles. What are some modern-day examples of these principles, and how can believers guard against them?

Paul uses a personal and emotional tone when addressing the Galatians. How does this affect the way we interpret his message? Why is personal connection important in discussions of faith? vs 12

How can we practically live out the freedom that Paul describes in this chapter? What challenges might we face in doing so? vs 12

How does Paul’s relationship with the Galatians reflect the importance of community in faith? What lessons can we take from this about our own relationships within the church? vs 13-20

What is the overarching message of Galatians chapter 4, and how does it apply to our lives today?

Paul says that Christ has truly set us free. What do you think it means to be free in Christ Verse 1

How can we avoid falling back into a mindset where we think we have to follow a bunch of rules to earn God's love?

Paul warns not to "get tied up again in slavery to the law." How can trying to follow rules perfectly become like being a slave? Verse 1

What is the difference between obeying out of fear and living in freedom through faith?

Paul says that in Christ, it doesn't matter whether we are circumcised or uncircumcised; what matters is faith expressing itself in love. What do you think this means? Verse 6

How can you show your faith through acts of love this week?

Why do you think Paul emphasizes that outward actions like circumcision or following certain rules aren't what count? Verses 4-6 What does it mean for you to live a life where faith and love are the most important things?

Paul says that we are called to live in freedom but not to use that freedom to satisfy our sinful nature. How do you think we can use our freedom to serve others instead of ourselves? Verse 13

Can you think of a time when you were tempted to put yourself first? How can you choose to serve others instead?

Paul talks about letting the Holy Spirit guide your lives. What do you think it looks like to be guided by the Holy Spirit in your everyday life? Verse 16 How can you make room for the Holy Spirit to lead you this week?

Paul lists the "acts of the sinful nature" and contrasts them with the "fruit of the Spirit." Why do you think he makes this comparison? Verses 19-23 How can you tell when someone is living by the sinful nature versus living by the Spirit?

The fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Which of these fruits do you find easiest to show? Which one do you want to work on? Verses: Galatians 22-23

What are some ways you can let the Holy Spirit grow these fruits in your life?

Paul says that those who belong to Christ have "nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross."

What do you think it means to leave those sinful desires behind? Verse 24

What sinful desires do you struggle with, and how can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome them?

Paul encourages us to follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. What are some practical ways you can let the Holy Spirit lead your decisions, actions, and words? Verse 25

How can you remind yourself each day to live by the Spirit instead of your own desires?

Paul uses the farm illustration of sowing and then reaping. What things are you sowing in your life and what do you hope to reap?

How can you bear another person's burdens?

Confidence and humility are sometimes challenging to blend. How have you built these into your activities?

What are the good" things that we can do for others?

Revenge and rebuke are tendencies we apply toward others in the natural man. How does Paul want us to deal with others and why?

Circumcision was seen as a mark of spirituality. How can we be tempted to act religiously toward others?

How can putting glory in the cross of Jesus help us stay balanced in our daily lives?

Have you ever felt tired of doing what is right? What is God's promise for those who endure?

Paul says that God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. What do you think some of those spiritual blessings are? Verse 3

How does knowing you are spiritually blessed affect the way you see yourself and others?

Paul talks about how God chose us to be holy and without fault in His eyes. How do you feel knowing that God chose you even before the world was made? Verse 4. How does this truth affect the way you live and make choices?

Paul says that God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family. What does it mean to you to be part of God's family? Verses 5-6. How does being adopted into God's family change the way you view yourself and your relationship with others in the church?

Paul says that we are accepted by God because of Jesus. Why is it important to know that you are accepted by God, no matter what? Verse 6. How can you live with more confidence knowing you are accepted by God?

Paul talks about how through Jesus' blood, "we have freedom with the blood of his Son, and forgave our sins."

What does the word "redemption" mean to you? Verse 7

How does it feel to know that your sins are forgiven because of Jesus' sacrifice?

Paul says that God "showed his kindness on us"? What does that mean to you as a quizzer?

Verses 7-8. How can you be more aware of God's grace in your everyday life?

Paul says that God's plan is to bring everything together under the authority of Christ. What do you think this plan looks like? Verses 9-10 How can knowing God's plan for the world give you hope when things seem confusing or difficult?

Paul says that when we believed in Christ, God identified us as His own by giving us the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to you to have the Holy Spirit in your life? Verse 13. How can you rely on the Holy Spirit's presence to guide you each day?

Paul describes the Holy Spirit as God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised. How does the Holy Spirit give you confidence in your relationship with God? Verse 14.

How can you live knowing that you are guaranteed a future with God?

Paul prays that we will grow in knowledge and understanding of God. Why do you think it's important to continually grow in your knowledge of God? Verses 17-18. What are some ways you can get to know God better this week?

Ephesians 2:8-9: We have been saved by God's grace and through faith, not of our own good works. We have all sinned and have fallen short of God's glorious standard, and our sin separates us from God. In our own ability, we cannot make ourselves right with God. But God did what we could never do, and He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer the penalty for our sins. And because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, we can be reconciled with God when we put our faith in Jesus.

- Verse 8 says that God's salvation is a 'gift'. Why is this significant?
- God saved us by sending His very own Son. What does this show us about God's character?

Ephesians 2:10: This verse tells us that we have been made 'anew in Christ Jesus.' When we come to Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Lord and Savior, we are made into a new creation in Him. The old is gone and the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Looking back at **Ephesians 2:1-4**, we can see how we were 'dead' in our sins, but God who is rich in mercy, has made us alive in Christ Jesus. When we sin, we become a slave to sin. (John 8:34) But when the Son sets us free, we will be free indeed. (John 8:36) Even though we all have committed many sins, God gives us the opportunity to repent and turn to Him. When we surrender ourselves to Him, He has the power to transform us into a new creation, no matter how broken or far gone we may think we are. We are God's masterpiece and He has a beautiful plan for each of our lives.

- Think about the words used to describe our life before and after knowing Jesus. Verse 1 says that we were 'dead', and verse 4 says that God 'gave us life.' Why does sin make us dead? And why is it important that God gave us life through His Son?
- What does it mean when we are called God's masterpiece? What are things that get in the way of us understanding that we are God's masterpiece (ex: our own insecurities, thinking about our past, fears and worries about our future)? Take a moment to pray that the Lord would remove these hindrances and would help us to always know that we are His masterpiece.

Ephesians 2:13-14,16-19: Originally, the whole revelation of God and His plan for salvation was intended for the Jews, that is the people of Israel. (Romans 3:2) But because the Jews did not accept Jesus Christ (Romans 11:11, John 1:11-12), God made salvation available to everyone who believes and accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, including the Gentiles. In Romans 11, an illustration of an olive tree is used to better explain this. The Jews were the original branches of God's special olive tree, and we Gentiles have been grafted in as a branch from a wild olive tree into God's special olive tree. God's desire is for all people to be saved and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, whether Jew or Gentile. (Romans 11:15)

- Why is it important that both Jews and Gentiles have access to God's salvation? Why is this important for us Gentiles?
- What does it mean to be 'citizens along with God's holy people' and to be 'members of God's family' (verse 19)?

Ephesians 2:21-22: In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, we can read that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit and that God's Spirit lives in us. Verse 17 says that God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple; for God's temple is holy, and we are that temple. Scripture tells us that we should be holy because the God who chose is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16) No matter where we are or what we do, we should always have the awareness that we are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. Knowing this, we should live a holy life pleasing to the Lord. God has given us the Holy Spirit as our Helper. The Holy Spirit will lead us into truth (John 14:17), and He will convict us when we sin. He will help us to discern good from evil and He will lead us in our everyday lives. He will tell us where to go and not to go and give us counsel in what to do in every situation. But we need to listen to His voice. We get so busy with our own agendas and our own plans that we often don't listen to the Holy Spirit nudging us and telling us to do something.

- What are some practical ways we can live holy lives as God's temple? What are ways we can avoid being around people and situations where we are tempted to do unholy things?
- How can we become more aware of the Holy Spirit working in our life? Make it a habit to pray daily that we would listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to us.

1. In verse 1, What does Paul refer to when he says, “when I think of all this”?
2. What is God’s mysterious plan is Paul referring to? How has that plan been revealed?
3. Why is this mystery such a big deal?
4. In verse 8, Paul calls himself the “least deserving of all God’s people” Why would he say that?
5. Paul says in verse 12, “Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence.” What does that look like in your life? Can you think of an earthly comparison to help illustrate this?
6. In verses 14-19, Paul gives one of the most amazing prayers in the Bible. List five or more things that Paul prays for.
7. Take time to pray for each other using this prayer as an example.
8. Verse 20 is short but so much more than it first appears. What does it mean that God is able to “accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think” How much can you imagine? God is bigger!

1. Ephesians 4:1 urges believers to live a life worthy of their calling. What does it mean to live a life worthy of the calling we have received in Christ?
2. Paul emphasizes the importance of humility, gentleness, patience, and love in Ephesians 4:2-3. How can we cultivate these qualities in our relationships with fellow believers and in our interactions with others outside the church?
3. In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul highlights the unity of the Spirit among believers. How can we strive for unity within our church community while still embracing diversity of gifts, backgrounds, and perspectives?
4. Ephesians 4:7-10 speaks about Christ's gifts to the church, including apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. How do these gifts function in the church today, and how can we use them effectively for the edification of the body of Christ?
5. Paul encourages believers to grow into maturity in Ephesians 4:13. What are some practical steps we can take to mature spiritually and grow in our faith?
6. Ephesians 4:15 emphasizes speaking the truth in love. How can we balance speaking truth with showing love and grace, especially in difficult or controversial situations?
7. Paul warns against being "tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching" in Ephesians 4:14. How can we discern true biblical teaching from false doctrines in today's world?
8. In Ephesians 4:17-24, Paul contrasts the old self with the new self in Christ. How can we actively put off our old sinful nature and put on the new nature given to us by Christ?
9. Ephesians 4:25 instructs believers to speak truthfully and avoid sinful anger. How can we cultivate honesty and control our anger in our communication with others?
10. Paul exhorts believers to work hard and share with those in need in Ephesians 4:28. How can we practically demonstrate a strong work ethic and generosity in our daily lives?
11. Ephesians 4:29 advises against unwholesome speech and encourages words that build others up. How can we guard our speech and use our words to encourage and uplift others?
12. In Ephesians 4:30, Paul reminds believers not to grieve the Holy Spirit. How can we cultivate a deeper sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives and avoid actions that grieve Him?
13. Reflect on Ephesians 4:32, which calls us to be kind and compassionate, forgiving one another just as God forgave us in Christ. How can we extend grace and forgiveness to those who have wronged us, following the example of Jesus?

1. If we imitate God, what will our life be filled with?

2. What kind of sinful people will not inherit the Kingdom of God? And how does this list of people compare to the list in Galatians 5:19-21? [see also 1 Cor 6:9-11]

3. Does Paul hint that spirit-filled Christians will, or should, act like drunk people, or are there different actions spirit-filled Christians should take in opposition to being drunk with wine?

4. Based on who Paul was writing to, whose job is it to make wives submit to their husbands?

5. Why did Christ give up His life for the church?

6. In Ephesians 5:25-33, can you find the correlation between the following three truths:
 - ☐ Women being made from one of the ribs of Adam (Gen. 2:22)
 - ☐ The church being the bride of Christ, who gave Himself up for her (2 Cor. 11:2, Rev.19:7)
 - ☐ The calling of husbands to love their wives, as Christ loved the church

Ephesians chapter 6

Bernie Elliot

This chapter focuses on practical instructions for Christian living. It begins by addressing the relationships between children and parents, and between servants and masters, emphasizing obedience, respect, and fairness. Paul then shifts to a powerful call to spiritual readiness, urging believers to "put on all of God's armor" to stand strong against the devil's schemes. The chapter closes with an encouragement to pray persistently and a personal note from Paul, highlighting the importance of encouragement, faithfulness, and peace among believers. It is important for Bible Quizzers to "be a doer of the Word, not hearers only"

Verse 1-4: In what ways can parents bring up their children "in the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4, NLT)?

Verse 5-8: How does the concept of serving earthly masters apply to our modern work environments? What principles should guide our work ethic based on Ephesians 6:5-8? In your observation do Christians work harder than non-believers?

Verse 10-12: What does it mean to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NLT)? How do spiritual battles manifest in our lives today?

Verse 13-15: How does the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-17) equip us to withstand spiritual challenges? Which piece of armor do you find most relevant in your daily life?

Verse 18-20: What role does prayer play in spiritual warfare according to Ephesians 6:18-20? How can we cultivate a more consistent and effective prayer life?

Verse 21-24: Paul sends greetings to the Ephesian church through Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21-22). What can we learn about the importance of encouragement and unity in the body of Christ from this passage?

Overall Reflection: How does Ephesians chapter 6 challenge us to live out our faith practically in our daily lives, relationships, and spiritual battles? What might your youth ministry look like if every student lived out this chapter?

1. Most of the New Testament is written as either an historical record or a letter. Why do you think the Holy Spirit wanted the content of Philippians in a personal letter instead of a structured theology text? Think about what we can learn from a letter. Think about what the Holy Spirit gives us as we see the heart of a man who has faithfully served the Lord and now approaches the end of his life in prison for sharing the Gospel. What gives Paul such emotional strength and stability in this the worst of situations?
2. Verses 3-11. In the letter is a picture of Paul's prayer life. What was important to Paul and what motivated him? If your church or small group does prayer requests, compare those requests to Paul's prayer. How might Paul's prayer life have helped his emotional strength and stability in the worst of situations?
3. Verses 12-19. Some in the American church are expressing concern about things like competition between churches and celebrity leadership. What can we learn from Paul's heart for ministry? How might this attitude have helped Paul's emotional strength and stability?
4. Verses 20-26. What do people commonly live for, and what are their thoughts about death? What does Paul think about life and death and how might this have affected his emotional strength and stability?
5. Verses 27-30. What would it look like for you to live as a citizen of heaven? Also look ahead to 3:19-21. Would living as a citizen of heaven help us with our emotional strength and stability?

In Philippians 2:1-11, we are instructed to have the same attitude Jesus had while he lived on earth as a human being.

1. What attitude did Jesus demonstrate while on earth?
2. What resulted from Jesus displaying this attitude?
3. How can we exhibit this attitude in our everyday lives?

In Philippians 2:12-18, Paul instructs us to let the light of Jesus shine from within us.

1. How can we obey God with deep reverence and fear?
2. What does it mean to “hold firmly to the word of life”? Why should we do this?
3. Is it possible to rejoice in the midst of hardship? Why or why not?

In Philippians 2:19-30, Paul commends both Timothy and Epaphroditus as co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus.

1. Why should you genuinely care for the welfare of others?
2. How can we work together in preaching the Good News?
3. How does helping those in need bring about spiritual growth?
4. What can we do to welcome others in Jesus’ love? With great joy? With honor?

1. Paul opens chapter 3 by telling his Philippian brothers and sisters to rejoice in the Lord, “whatever happens.” How does doing this safeguard our faith?
2. In verses 3-4, Paul said, quote “We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could,” and then went on in verses 5 and 6 to list some of what he had accomplished through his own efforts. Was Paul proud of his accomplishments, or was he was prideful? Is there a difference between being proud and being prideful?
3. Regarding earthly accomplishments, in verse 8, Paul said, quote, “everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.” If everything we accomplish on earth is worthless, then what should be our approach toward success in life, whether in school, sports, work, or ministry?
4. In verse 10, Paul uses several action words to describe the relationship he desires to have with God. How can we as believers today: 1) know Christ, 2) experience His power, 3) suffer with Him, and 4) share in His death?
5. In verse 12, Paul speaks of his desire to attain perfection. What perfection was he speaking of, and is it possible for us to attain it?
6. In verses 13-14, Paul compares the way he lives his life to the way a runner runs a race. In what ways is life like a race, and in what ways are we as believers like runners in a race?
7. What approach toward conflict resolution is found in verses 15-16?
8. Citizenship was extremely important to the Philippians, since as a colony of Rome they were granted all the rights and privileges of Roman citizens. What special significance would the phrase “citizens of heaven” in verse 20 have had for them? What significance does it have for us today?

Philippians Chapter 4

Kaitlyn Czubkowski

As of July 2024, Disney Pixar's Inside Out 2 became the highest grossing animated movie at the worldwide box office. Some major characters (anthropomorphic emotions) in that movie are Joy, Fear, Sadness, Envy, and Anxiety.

1. Verse 4 says always be full of joy. What does being full of the joy of the Lord look like in your life?
2. With **joy** being found in **rejoicing**, it is easy to rejoice when there is joy in your life. However, there are often times in life where there is no joy. Should we still rejoice? Why or why not?

A very famous quote from the movie, said by Anxiety, goes like this, "Fear protects her [Riley] from the scary stuff she can see, and MY job is to protect her from the scary stuff she CAN'T see!"

3. Read Philippians 4:6 in the NIV and compare it to the same verse in the NLT. 'Worry' and 'anxious' are the interchanged words between the versions in this verse. Do you think one word versus the other changes the meaning of the verse?
4. Write down some areas of your life that you catch yourself being anxious. What is it about these areas that makes you anxious?
 - a. Do you have complete control of any of these situations? If so, does that *raise* or *lower* the anxiety you feel about the situation?
 - b. Do you have absolutely no control of any of these situations? If so, does that *raise* or *lower* the anxiety you feel about that situation?

If you keep reading in verse 6 and continue to verse 7, you will find that you do indeed have control over the situations that worry you or make you anxious. **You** have the control of your **prayer** response!

Even amid an anxious situation, a prayer under your breath before a big test or right before the big game takes the control you have to view the situation and gives the control of the outcome back to God!

5. When we do this, we receive God's peace. What does God's peace mean for the situations you are anxious about? Is it an automatic fix or something else?

True. Honorable. Right. Pure. Lovely. Admirable. Paul instructs us to think about things that follow these characteristics.

6. Do you think there's any correlation to things that make us worry or anxious also being things that are not defined by the characteristics mentioned in verse 8? How do you think your peace level would change if your thoughts *truly* did follow the verse 8 characteristics?

Paul talks about being content in verses 11 – 14.

7. Does this mean Paul is without anxiety or worry? Why or why not?
8. Can you be content in your life, but also have anxiety? Do you think this is part of God's plan for us?

The phrase "it's giving _____" means that something is personifying the essence of something else. Paul praises the Philippian church for its giving.

9. What kinds of things do you think the Philippians sent to Paul? Keep in mind that Paul describes himself as content because of their gifts. I doubt he got more than one Tesla from them.
10. How can you be generous like the Philippians? Can you give of your finances? Time? Prayer? Be someone who others look at and think, "Wow, they're definitely giving!"

Colossians 1 emphasizes Christ's supremacy and role in creation. Paul begins by expressing gratitude for the faith of the Colossian believers and prays for their spiritual growth. He highlights Jesus as the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, and the one through whom all things were made. The chapter also speaks of Christ's work in reconciling humanity to God through His sacrifice, encouraging believers to remain steadfast in their faith.

Verses 3-6: In the section titled "Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer" what 2 things does Paul express thanks for? In the second part of that answer do you believe that's true in the church world today? How about in your Bible Quiz team and youth group?

Verse 9-10: Paul prays that the Colossians will be filled with knowledge and spiritual understanding. What does it look like to live a life that honors and pleases the Lord in everyday situations?

Verse 13-14: What does it mean that God has "rescued us from the kingdom of darkness" and transferred us into the Kingdom of His Son? How do you see that transformation in your own life? Are there members of your Bible Quiz team and youth ministry that need salvation?

Verses 15-17: How does Paul describe Jesus in these verses? What does this passage teach us about Christ's role in creation and in sustaining all things?

Verse 18: What does it mean for Christ to be the head of the church and first in everything? How does this influence how we see our place in the church and our priorities?

Verses 21-22: How does it feel to know that, though we were once separated from God, we are now reconciled through Christ's death? What impact does this have on your identity and confidence?

Verses 28-29: Paul talks about proclaiming Christ and teaching with wisdom to help others grow spiritually. How can we take part in this mission in our own lives, Bible Quiz team, youth group and in your community?

1. What does the writer mean by “agonizing” for the Colossians, the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met him personally? What is his goal? How do his efforts set an example for us?
2. What is the mysterious plan, what is hidden, and where are the things that are hidden?
3. How should the Christian continue to follow Christ? What does the writer say will be the result of continuing to follow Christ?
4. “What can we learn about Christ, our position, and how we should live by the verses that use the phrases “In whom,” “In Him,” “In Christ,” and “With Christ”?”
5. What happens when we are baptized? Why? (see Col 2:12; 20)
6. How did God disarm the spiritual rulers and authorities? What does that mean for us?
7. What are shadows and what is reality?
8. What is the result of the sinful minds of the false teachers?
9. What doesn’t help a person conquer evil desires?
10. By asking why the people are following the rules of this world, is the writer saying Christians should do whatever they feel like doing? If not, how can a Christian resist temptation to follow evil desires?
11. Sometimes people follow strict religious traditions to make themselves feel more holy or to show themselves “more spiritual” than others. How is the Christian made complete?
12. Who is Christ head over? (see Col 2:10, 19)

1. (vs 1-4) We are told that our old self has died with Christ and we are to “set our sights on the realities of heaven” and also to “Think about the things of heaven” What do you think the realities and things of heaven are?
2. (vs 5-11) In these verses, Paul begins to go into detail some of the things that we should have nothing to do with now that we live in Christ and are no longer a part of this world. Verse eight targets a lot of sins that have to do with speech – “malicious behavior, slander and dirty language. What are these things exactly? How do they apply to social media? Find at least three other verses in the Bible that have to do with our speech.
3. (vs 12-15) Paul now lists some qualities that we “clothe ourselves with”, now that we realize that we are God’s chosen people. When we get to verse 13, we are told to “make allowance for each other’s faults” and to “forgive anyone who offends you” How is this command contrary to today’s culture? Is there anyone who has offended you that you need to forgive?
4. (vs 16- 17) These verses speak about praising God and being thankful. List five non-material things in your life that you are thankful for. What is your favorite worship song?
5. (vs. 18-20) Paul is giving specific instructions to the family unit. What does it mean to submit? Is submission an act of choice or coercion? In Ephesians 2, Paul describes that the love of a husband to his wife should mirror how Christ loves the church. What do you think Paul means when he tells husbands to “love your wives”
6. (vs 22-25) These last few verses address slaves. While we know today that slavery in any form is wrong – in Paul’s day it was a common part of the harsh culture of the Roman world. Do you think these verses were encouraging to the people living in slavery at the time? How do the words of these verses apply to our lives today?

Love and Faith

Paul starts his letter by thanking God for Philemon's love and faith. Why do you think Paul values these qualities so much?

Verses: Philemon 1:4-5

Follow-up: How can you show love and faith in your relationships with others, especially in your church or school?

Paul says he prays that Philemon's faith will be put into action. What do you think it means to put your faith into action?

Verse: Philemon 1:6

Follow-up: What are some ways you can put your faith into action this week?

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Paul is writing to Philemon about Onesimus, who wronged Philemon but has since become a Christian. Why do you think Paul is asking Philemon to forgive Onesimus?

Verses: Philemon 1:10-11

Follow-up: How can forgiveness help repair relationships? Is there anyone you need to forgive?

Paul asks Philemon to accept Onesimus "as a brother in the Lord." How do you think it would be challenging for Philemon to see Onesimus in this new way?

Verses: Philemon 1:16-17

Follow-up: How can you treat someone with kindness, even if they've hurt you in the past?

Paul's Appeal for Mercy

Paul could have ordered Philemon to forgive Onesimus, but instead he appeals to him in love. Why do you think Paul approached the situation this way?

Verse: Philemon 1:8-9

Follow-up: How can you use love and kindness to resolve conflicts, rather than just telling people what to do?

Paul offers to repay anything Onesimus owes Philemon. Why do you think Paul was willing to take responsibility for Onesimus's past?

Verses: Philemon 1:18-19

Follow-up: How does Paul's attitude reflect Jesus' willingness to take on our sins?

Brotherhood in Christ

Paul talks about how Onesimus went from being a slave to becoming a beloved brother in Christ. How does being a Christian change the way we see and treat others?

Verse: Philemon 1:16

Follow-up: How can you treat others as equals and brothers/sisters in Christ, regardless of their background?

Paul says that Philemon's love has given him "much joy and comfort." How do you think your love and kindness can bring joy and comfort to others?

Verse: Philemon 1:7

Follow-up: How can you encourage someone this week through your actions or words?

Trusting God in Relationships

Paul finishes by expressing his confidence that Philemon will do even more than what he asked. Why do you think Paul trusts that Philemon will respond with love and kindness?

Verse: Philemon 1:21

Follow-up: How can you go above and beyond in showing love and forgiveness to someone this week?